

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

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----- 103809

P R 271205Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3068

USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: FORMER SENATOR DANG VAN SUNG PLANS AFRICAN TRIP

1. FORMER RVN SEN DANG VAN SUNG, PUBLISHER OF THE SAIGON DAILY CHINH LUAN, WILL TRAVEL TO NINE AFRICAN COUNTRIES DURING APRIL AND MAY ON BEHALF OF THE GVN. THE GENERAL PURPOSE WILL BE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC CONTACT, OR TO RENEW IT IN THE CASE OF COUNTRIES CONTACTED BEFORE. (SUNG VISITED SEVERAL OF THESE COUNTRIES ON A SIMILAR TRIP IN 1973). THIS WILL BE PART OF THE GVN'S CURRENT DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE.

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2. SUNG'S ITINERARY, WHICH HE EMPHASIZED IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE,

STANDS CURRENTLY AS FOLLOWS:

MARCH 27 FLY SAIGON TO PARIS
APRIL 1 ARRIVE NAIROBI
APRIL 6 ARRIVE KINSHASA
APRIL 8 ARRIVE BANGUI
APRIL 11 ARRIVE KINSHASA
APRIL 19 ARRIVE LIBREVILLE
APRIL 23 ARRIVE YAOUNDE
APRIL 26 ARRIVE LAGOS
APRIL 30 ARRIVE LOME
MAY 3 ARRIVE ACCRA
MAY 7 ARRIVE FREETOWN
MAY 10 LEAVE FREETOWN.

3. SUNG WILL RETURN TO SAIGON ABOUT MAY 15, PROBABLY VIA PARIS.
THE FIRST OF THE ABOVE STOPS IN KINSHASA IS NECESSITATED BY THE
ROUTE TO BANGUI AND WILL BE UNOFFICIAL.

4. SUNG WILL REPRESENT THE RVN FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ALL OF THE ABOVE
CAPITALS. IN BANGUI, KINSHASA, LOME, AND FREETOWN, HE WILL TRAVEL
AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRES THIEU. (WE UNDERSTAND HE WILL
RENEW PREVIOUS INVITATIONS TO CAR PRES BOKASSA AND ZAIRE PRES
MOBUTU TO VISIT SOUTH VIETNAM.)

5. SUNG COMMENTED THAT SEVERAL OF THE HOST COUNTRIES WOULD NOT
ACCEPT HIM AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRES THIEU, DUE TO
HESITATIONS THEY HAVE ABOUT CLOSE OFFICIAL TIES WITH THE RVN.
HOWEVER, ALL OF THESE GOVTS HAVE ACCEPTED HIM AS A SPOKESMAN FOR
THE RVN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

6. IN LIBREVILLE AND YAOUNDE, SUNG WILL EXPLORE WAYS OF STOPPING
OR AT LEAST DELAYING (HE USED THE WORD "FREEZING") THE ANNOUNCED
MOVES OF THESE TWO GOVTS TOWARD THE PRG.

7. SUNG WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR THE RVN IN THESE CAPITALS.
HIS FRENCH IS FLUENT, AND HIS ENGLISH IS GOOD. HE IS ALREADY FAMILIAR
WITH SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF HIS 1973 TRIP. SUNG
IS PUBLISHER OF SAIGON'S MOST RESPECTED NEWSPAPER, AND AS SENATOR
FROM 1967 TO 1973 HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE RVN'S
CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT. HE MAINTAINS AN INDEPENDENT YET
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CONSTRUCTIVE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

8. WE HAVE TOLD SUNG THAT WE WOULD INFORM OUR EMBASSIES IN THE ABOVE
CAPITALS ABOUT HIS PLANS, AND THAT HE SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CALL US FOR
BRIEFINGS AND GENERAL ASSISTANCE.
MARTIN

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